

**MINUTES from the REGULAR Meeting
Harris Township Board
Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 7:30pm**

The Regular Meeting of the Harris Town Board was held on Wednesday, January 14, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm, at the Harris Town Hall, with the following officers present: Supervisors Larry Key, Gary Rosato and Dennis Kortekaas, Clerk Michele Smith and Treasurer Peg Bishop. Absent: none.

Also in attendance: Julie Kennedy, SEH Engineer, John Jokela – resident, and Kevin Geislinger, from the Grand Rapids Baseball Association.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rosato, followed by the pledge to the flag, and the reading of the township mission statement

Minutes from of the Regular Meeting of December 10, (no December P&D Meeting), the Work Session on December 10, and the Public Hearing on December 9, 2008 were reviewed by the Board prior to the meeting tonight.

Supervisor Kortekaas made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Upon a second by Supervisor Key, roll call was taken and the motion was passed.

ROADS

- Underwood Road – review email from Andy Shaw

Julie recapped the email from Andy Shaw regarding the Underwood Road: Basically, anything the township does to improve the Underwood Road will not effect the private easement for Baril. Mr. Shaw suggested that the Board consider vacating the area not being used, and he can start the process if/when the board wants. This is something that could be done during the winter. Consideration for putting in a turnaround should wait until spring to see and document the drainage issues, as that's a major concern with this area of the Underwood road. Julie suggested keeping good record – both written and photos – for documentation to have in preparation for the turnaround proposal with Gundersons.

Supervisor Key made a motion to continue with the process to vacate the Underwood Road area discussed by contacting Attorney Shaw to write up a legal description and do a drawing of the area, and then sit down with Gundersons to discuss. Upon a second by Supervisor Kortekaas, roll call was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- Pine Crest – snow plowed in front of garage

The resident who lives at the end of Pine Crest called Supervisor Key. A county plow driver pushed snow in front of the door of the old Sugar Shack, which the resident owns and uses as a garage. This is a cul de sac area and Supervisor Key wondered if the plow was going beyond our ROW. Supervisor Rosato agreed that we'll need to research this.

The county did move the snow so that the resident could get into his garage, and agreed to place the snow elsewhere in the future.

- Norway and Root Roads turnarounds

Supervisor Key reported that the new turnarounds are working well on Norway & Root Roads for the county to turn around with their snowplow.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

There was no treasurer's report for December 1 – 31, 2008 due to year end balancing that is in progress.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

- Jim Gustafson – Rocky Mountain Elks Foundation:

- *Application for gambling permit for event March 28, 2009 at Wendigo*

Jim was not able to be at tonight's meeting, but dropped off information for regarding its annual fundraiser – a conservation banquet – to be held at Wendigo Resort on March 28,

2009. During the event, there will be games, raffles, and auctions. The proceeds benefit elk, other wildlife and their habitats.

A request was made by Gustafson to approve and sign their LG220 Application for Exempt permit to the Minnesota Gambling Control Board.

Supervisor Key made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas, to approve the LG220 permit for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's fundraising event at Wendigo. Upon roll call, motion passed and the permit was signed by Chairman Rosato.

- Kevin Geislinger – Grand Rapids Baseball Association

- *Permit request for fishing tournament off of LaPlant landing on Feb. 22, 2009 (Sunday)*
Kevin presented the Board with a poster about their upcoming "Bottom of the 9th Fishing Contest", a fund raiser for the Grand Rapids Baseball Association. It's their 9th year for this event, but only the second year being held off of LaPlant Landing. Because it was so successful, they would like to hold it there again this year. Last year, there was about 75 cars and 200 people who attended. Door prizes are given out at Zorbaz after the contest. Kevin stated he would be check landing and ice to make sure it's safe.

Supervisor Key made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas, to approve the LG220 permit for the Grand Rapids Baseball Association fundraising fishing contest at LaPlant Landing on February 22nd, 2009. Upon roll call, motion passed and the permit was signed by Chairman Rosato

- John Jokela

- *The 10 Symptoms of Dysfunctional Boards: Your Guide to Great Governance*
John invited the Board to hear the author of the above noted book, who would be presenting a seminar at the Blandin Foundation on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 from 8:30am – 1pm. Attendees will learn how to identify and discuss the qualities of an effective meeting, tools for quick, effective group decision making, and techniques for dealing with different personalities and issues that create conflict and impeded results. The fee is \$18 and includes the book and lunch.
The entire board expressed an interest in attending, as did Julie Kennedy.

Supervisor Key made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas, to approve that this be a paid event for all Officers of the Harris Town Board. Upon roll call, motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Bishop requested that Officers pay for the seminar, and then request reimbursement with their February claim form. Clerk Smith will post a quorum notice of the seminar.

RECREATION

- Consider adoption of Resolution #2009-001 regarding limited county jurisdiction of public landings
Julie recapped the contents of the resolution. This is in follow up to Andy Shaw's discussion with County Commissioner Rusty Eichorn. The resolution is an official request to enter into an agreement with Itasca Co. to assume limited jurisdiction over the landings to allow law enforcement coverage of the landings by the Itasca County Sheriffs Department, but that the Township would continue to maintain the landings.

Supervisor Key made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas, to approve Resolution #2009-001 Itasca County Land, Park and Recreation Department to assume limited jurisdiction over Harris Township public landings. Upon roll call, motion carried unanimously.

- Rinks are currently closed due to cold weather in accordance to our policy is to close them at 10 degrees below zero. They will reopen when the temperature warms up.

MAINTENANCE REPORT – November 2008 (carryover, since there was no December P&D meeting)

The board reviewed the report with no questions or concerns. Larry Key and two maintenance workers were commended by Supervisor Rosato on the great job they do.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no Board **Action** items of correspondence this month.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider approval of the following people as seasonal part time rink attendants, as of Dec. 12, 2008:
 - o *Alex Safe, Mary Millard, Jake Sutherland, Jim Keenan, and Matt Carrier*
2. Consider approval of the sale of 2 cemetery sites to Douglas and Carolann Gooselaw: Sec 3, Block 21, Lot 2, Sites 7 & 8

A motion was made by Supervisor Kortekaas, seconded by Supervisor Key, to approve consent items 1 and 2 as listed above. Upon roll call, motion carried by a unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

- Paul Bunyan representative

Supervisor Rosato reported that, as requested, a Paul Bunyan Representative will be coming to the P&D meeting on January 28th to discuss any change in their position about coming to Harris Township.

NEW BUSINESS

- Consider approval of the *Joint Powers Agreement with the South Central Itasca County Intergovernmental Planning Brd*

Supervisor gave an overview of the Joint Powers Agreement with the South Central ICIPB and explained that the only change from the previous agreement was that this one omitted a name from the roster of someone who no longer is on the board. Overall, it was a housekeeping item only.

Supervisor Key made a motion to approve the Joint Powers Agreement with the South Central ICIPB as presented; Supervisor Kortekaas seconded the motion and upon roll call, duly passed.

- Mileage reimbursement rate reduction effective 1-1-09; Federal Rate now \$0.55/mile

In order to not claim mileage reimbursement as income on a W2, the Board traditionally adopts a rate one half cent below the Federal rate. It is stated as such in the Resolution #2008-003 / A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE COMPENSATION FOR OFFICERS OF THE HARRIS TOWN BOARD. However, a motion was also made as follows:

Supervisor Key made a motion to set the mileage reimbursement rate for Township Business at ½ cent below the Federal rate, or 54 ½ cents / mile. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas, and duly passed.

- Set a date for the first budget meeting

The Board set the date for the annual audit and first budget meeting for **Monday, January 26th, 2009, at 7:30pm**. It will be at the Town Hall if available, otherwise, at the Service Center. Because the Township goes through an annual outside audit now, the internal audit is simply to show that the Clerk's books balance with the Treasurer's and have the Board sign off on the appropriate pages. Clerk Smith will post this meeting accordingly.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

Supervisor Key made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas, to approve payment of the bills as listed on the attached bill list entitled "January - 09" in the amount of \$22,607.35. Upon roll call, motion carried unanimously

ADJOURN

After upcoming meetings were announced, Supervisor Key made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm. Kortekaas seconded the motion, and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Smith, Clerk